

HAK, Scowcroft  
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Israeli air strikes cause  
civilian casualties in  
Damascus.

UPI129

(AIR RAID CASUALTIES)

DAMASCUS (UPI) -- ISRAELI WAR PLANES IN A STRIKE AT THE HEART OF DAMASCUS TODAY HIT THE CAPITAL'S LUXURIOUS ABU RUMMANEH STREET, WHICH HOUSES MOST FOREIGN EMBASSIES, AND DESTROYED THE SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER, KILLING SIX RUSSIAN EMPLOYEES, WITNESSES SAID.

A DANISH TRUCE OBSERVER, HIS WIFE AND THEIR SMALL DAUGHTER WERE KILLED AND THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF INDIAN AND PAKISTANI DIPLOMATS WERE WOUNDED. WITNESSES REPORTED MANY OTHER CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

THEY SAID 10 BUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED AND SEVERAL BUILDINGS IN THE STREET SLIGHTLY DAMAGED. A VACANT SCHOOL WAS DESTROYED AND A HOSPITAL BADLY DAMAGED, THE WITNESSES REPORTED. ALL WERE NEAR THE SYRIAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, TARGET OF THE ISRAELI AIR ATTACKS.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE CULTURAL CENTER, MR. HAKIMOV, TOLD NEWSMEN SIX SOVIET EMPLOYEES OF THE CENTER WERE KILLED WHEN ISRAELI ROCKETS WRECKED THE BUILDING. HE SAID HE WAS OUT AT THE TIME.

"WE DENOUNCE THIS ATTACK IN OUR OWN NAME, THE NAME OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AND OF ALL SOVIETS LIVING IN SYRIA," HE SAID.

"THIS ATTACK IS A HORRIBLE CRIME CARRIED OUT BY THE ISRAELIS AGAINST CIVILIANS IN DAMASCUS AND A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY," HE SAID.

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